

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the patent application. For the reasons and arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited reference.

The instant Office Action dated May 7, 2007, listed the following objections and rejections: the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the title of the structures in Fig 6a as described in the specification--corrected drawing sheets are required; claims 1, 10-11, 13 and 16 are objected to due to grammatical informalities; claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 (2); claims 1-2, 4-9, 10-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sherwood *et al.* ("Predictor-Directed Stream Buffers"); and claims 3, 9 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sherwood in view of Handy (the Cache Memory Book).

Applicant wishes to bring an apparent clerical error to the Examiner's attention. The web version of the published application (as available through the U.S.P.T.O. website) does not correspond to the application of record as noted in the version available through public P.A.I.R. Particularly, paragraphs 31 and 32 of the web version of the published application appear to have erroneous text, possibly from another application.

Applicant has made a minor, grammatically-based amendment to claim 11. Applicant has also made amendments to claims 1, 11, 13 and 16 to remove extraneous reference numbers. These amendments are not intended to change the scope of the claims.

The Objection To Claims 1, 10-11, 13 And 16 Should Be Removed.

Applicant has amended claim 10 to correct a typographical error, as suggested by the Office Action. Applicant notes that the Office Action has not provided any rationale for the objections to claims 1, 11, 13 and 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 1, 10-11, 13 and 16 be removed.

The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejection Of Claim 15 Is Moot And Should Be Withdrawn.

Applicant has amended claim 15 to properly refer to the apparatus of claim 13. Applicant submits that the rationale for the rejection is now moot and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Objection To The Drawings Is Improper.

The Office Action has based the rejection to the drawings upon an improper standard. Applicant notes that the Office Action has cited to both 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) and M.P.E.P. 608.02(d). Applicant notes that there does not appear to be a M.P.E.P. Section 608.02(d). M.P.E.P. 608.02 appears to be partitioned into sections I-IX, some of which include a “d” subsection, none of which appear to support the objection. Moreover, 37 C.F.R. 183(a) does not support the Office Action’s assertion that a drawing must contain titles of the structures as described in the specification. The correct standard from 37 C.F.R. 183(a) is that features “illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (*e.g.*, a labeled rectangular box).” FIG. 6(a) contains labels for the rectangular boxes (*e.g.*, labels 601-607). Accordingly, Applicant submits that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 183(a) have been met.

The Section 102(B) Rejections Rely Upon An Erroneous Interpretation Of The Sherwood Reference:

The Office Action has presented an erroneous interpretation of the Sherwood reference. M.P.E.P. 2131 requires that to anticipate a claim the reference must teach each element of the claim. Each independent claim includes limitations directed to accessing and updating the SPT only when a cache miss is detected. The Office Action’s erroneous interpretation of the Sherwood reference results in a failure to properly address such limitations.

The Office Action does not provide a clear indication for how each claim limitation is believed to correspond to the elements of the Sherwood reference. Specifically, the correspondence to the SPT has not been made explicit. Notwithstanding, Applicant has attempted to ascertain the Office Action’s intent. The Office Action appears to assert that

the stride predictor (or possibly the Markov Predictor) corresponds to the limitations directed to a stride prediction table. The Office Action also appears to assert that the two-miss allocation filter corresponds to the limitations directed to only updating the SPT when a cache miss is detected. Applicant respectfully submits that the two-miss filter is directed to control of the allocation of a stream within the stream buffers (*i.e.*, “our two-miss allocation filter allows a load to allocate a new stream buffer when the load has two misses in a row” Shewood at Section 4.3). Thus, the two-miss load process allegedly corresponding to only accessing the SPT does not limit access to the SPT. Instead, it limits access to the stream buffers, which the Office Action has identified as the cache.

Applicant further notes that this load to the stream buffers is taught to be further contingent upon results of accesses to the predictors (*i.e.*, whether the load would have been correctly predicted). Applicant submits that it would be circular logic to assert that the predictors are only accessed contingent on the result of an access to themselves. Due to an interpretation that appears to confuse the predictors with the streaming buffers, Applicant submits that the Office Action has failed to show correspondence to each of the limitations.

This misinterpretation creates further discrepancies between the Office Action’s assertions and various dependent claims. As each dependent claim necessarily includes the limitations of the claim(s) from which it depends, the rejections are improper for the same reasons. Applicant requests that each rejection be withdrawn.

The Section 103(b) Rejections Rely Upon An Erroneous Interpretation Of The Sherwood Reference:

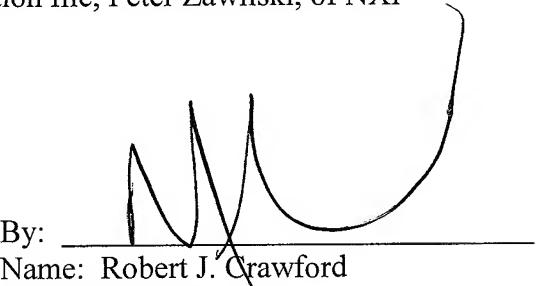
Each of the Section 103(b) rejections relies upon the aforementioned misinterpretation of the Sherwood reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejections under Section 103(a) are improper and that any discussion of the merits of the combination of references is moot. Applicant respectfully requests that each of the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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